

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 12-19 are amended. The claims have been amended generally as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying informalities and for suggesting revisions to overcome those informalities.

Applicant submits that the above amendments overcome the claim objections identified on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant submits that claims 1-4 are allowable, as noted in item 6 on page 4 of the Office Action. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 7-11.

Claims 5, 6 and 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

Claims 5 and 12-15 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Although the Office Action suggested amendments for claims 6 and 16-19, as noted on page 4, lines 9-10 of the Office Action, the Office Action's suggested amendments would result in claims 12 and 16 being substantially identical. Claims 17-19 also would be identical to claims 13-15. Applicant also notes that the Office Action's suggested claim amendments would result in claims 5 and 6 substantially being identical.

Accordingly, claims 6 and 16-19 have been amended to recite "a control program product embodied in a computer-readable data signal..." so as to be distinguishable from claims 5 and 12-15, respectively. Support for such an amendment can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 28, line 20 - page 29, line 11. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 16-19 define patentable subject matter in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §101, for example, because they recite more than a mere computer program.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 12-19 is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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